

---

**SCOPING DOCUMENT**  
**NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL REALIGNMENT – AMSLER  
SPRING**  
**U.S. FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION**  
**ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST**  
**FOREST COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Forest Service, in partnership with the Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, is proposing to realign a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail to protect soil and water resources and better maintain trail conditions. This project is located in Warrant 5138, Jenks Township, Forest County.

Additional information is below, and a copy of this scoping document and a map are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60191>. If you would like to comment on this project before a decision is made, please submit your comments by June 25, 2021.

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The North Country National Scenic Trail runs over 4,000 miles between Vermont and North Dakota. Nearly 100 miles of this trail are on the Allegheny National Forest, maintained almost entirely by volunteers in the Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. A section of the trail in the Amsler Springs area, between mile post 91.438 and 91.592, has been found to be chronically wet. The trail exists on the side of a small saddle and is almost flat, with slopes being 5 percent or less. The trail remains wet during its primary use season. The usual methods of trail drainage, such as ditching and waterbars, have been ineffective.

To address these problems, we are proposing to realign the trail to a location upward towards the crest of the shallow ridge that makes the north side of the saddle. This would provide opportunities for better drainage than the current location. This realignment will be built by volunteers from the Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association using hand tools.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

We will consider public comments and determine if the proposed action could impact resources to the point where an environmental assessment must be prepared. If so, the appropriate type of analysis will be conducted. If not, we will likely exclude the project from further documentation using the categorical exclusion for construction or reconstruction of trails (36 Code of Federal

Regulations 220.6(e)(1)).

## How to COMMENT

If you would like to provide input, please submit comments by June 25, 2021. The input received will help us refine the proposed action, determine the appropriate level of analysis, and decide whether to offer additional opportunities to participate before a decision is made.

**By Mail** Rob Fallon, District Ranger  
Allegheny National Forest  
Marienville Ranger District  
131 Smokey Lane.  
Marienville, PA 16239

**By Fax** 814-927-2258

**By Email** [comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@usda.gov](mailto:comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@usda.gov)  
Please enter the project name (*North Country Trail Realignment – Amsler Spring*) on the subject line and include your name and physical mailing address with your comments.

**By Phone** Comments may also be provided by calling 814-927-5700. Normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Please note that any comments received, including the names and addresses of those who submit comments, will be part of the public record and available for public inspection.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this project, please feel free to contact Recreation Planner Linda White (814) 927-5776; [linda.white@usda.gov](mailto:linda.white@usda.gov) or NEPA Planner Kevin Treese (814) 927-5759; [kevin.treese@usda.gov](mailto:kevin.treese@usda.gov).

*In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*